

Chapter 30

ELECTIONS

- Sec. 30-1. Place system for election of council members.
- Sec. 30-2. Electioneering at polling locations.

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Sec. 30-1. Place system for election of council members.

The city hereby adopts the place system for the election of the council members. Each office of council member shall be assigned a place number, so that hereafter each such office shall bear its own separate designation, such as Council Member, Place No. 1; Council Member, Place No. 2; Council Member, Place No. 3; Council Member, Place No. 4; and Council Member, Place No. 5. As terms of incumbent council members expire, each candidate for the office of council member shall file his/her application for a specific place on the City Council. In such election the ballot shall show each office of council member as a separate office by place number with the name of each candidate printed thereon under the specific office for which he/she is a candidate. (Ord. No. 020, §1, 9-30-1982; Ord. No. 516, §1, 2-13-2014)

Sec. 30-2. Electioneering at polling locations.

- (a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this Section is to provide reasonable regulations for electioneering on City-owned or controlled public property when such property is used as an election polling place. The regulations contained herein are to mitigate against any safety concerns, prevent damage to public property, and ensure that the property is sufficiently available for its patrons who use the facilities other than for election purposes.

- (b) *Definitions.* The words and phrases as used in this section shall have the meanings as set forth in this Section:

Electioneering shall mean the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature.

Prohibited area shall mean the area within which Texas Election Code Section 85.036(a) prohibits electioneering during the time an early voting or voting place is open for the conduct of early voting or voting.

Public property shall mean property owned or controlled by a public entity.

Voting period shall mean the period each day beginning the hour the polls are open for voting and ending when the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later on election day and early voting days. The period for a runoff election shall be considered to be a separate voting period.

- (c) Political signs at polling locations.

- (1) *Size.* The size of the on-premises sign shall not exceed 18 inches by 24 inches in size, may be two-dimensional only, and shall have a non-reflective surface.
- (2) *Number.* A maximum of six (6) political signs for each candidate, measure, or political party may be placed in the designated area outside of the prohibited area of the public property during the voting period. Additionally, four (4) political signs for each candidate, measure, or political party may be placed in or on each assigned electioneering space, as has been reserved and designated by the City Secretary's Office.

- (3) Location.
 - a. Signs must be placed within the designated area or designated electioneering area, as appropriately marked with election distance markers, of the polling place building's premises which is outside the prohibited area and must be self- supporting and placed into the ground by no more than two stakes.
 - b. Any sign determined to be in a location that causes an immediate hazard to public safety may be immediately removed by the City.
 - c. Prohibited locations. No sign shall be posted or otherwise affixed, attached, placed or otherwise affixed or erected in any area designated as a planting or landscaped area or to any tree, shrub, building, pole, or other improvement on public property used as a polling location.
- (4) *Design.* Signs shall be maintained in a well-kept manner and shall have a professional appearance.
- (5) *Lighting.* None.
- (6) *Duration.* Signs may be displayed at polling places from 24 hours prior to the opening of the polls for an election until 24 hours after the closing of the polls for the same election. Thereafter, all such signs shall be promptly removed.
- (7) *Permit fee.* No sign permit is required for political signs.
- (d) Electioneering at the polling location.
 - (1) Each candidate or proposition group may request an electioneering space during the voting period.
 - a. The request must be made in writing to the City Secretary on a prescribed form.
 - b. The City Secretary shall assign an electioneering space not to exceed 10' by 10' to each group making such request on a first come, first serve basis and as space permits.
 - c. Only one space shall be assigned to each candidate or group.
 - d. Electioneering spaces may not be set-up in areas not designated as an electioneering space.
 - (2) Electioneering is prohibited on public property that is used as a polling place other than during the voting period.
 - (3) Electioneering is prohibited on driveways on the premises of a polling location. This restriction shall not apply to the electioneering space designated to the candidate /group by the City Secretary's office or to electioneering signs that are attached to vehicles that are lawfully parked at the premises of a polling location.
 - (4) The electioneering spaces shall be regulated by the City Secretary's office.

- (e) Political signs on private property shall be regulated, pursuant to Chapter 66 *Signs*, Section 66-47 *Political signs*.
(Ord. No. 536, §2, 8-14-2014)

Chapters 31 - 33. Reserved.